

## GPHS Girls Take Third at League

By Brooke Stoll

The Golden Plains High School volleyball team traveled to Brewster on October 19 for the WKLL tournament. The Bulldogs went into the tournament seeded first with a record of 21-5. They were to take on the Northern Valley Huskies, Western Plains/Healy Bobcats, and Palco Roosters for pool play. They finished the day 4-1 to take home third place. "We played great together throughout the day!" said Sophomore Rayna Taylor. "I am happy with how we adjusted to our new rotation and I am excited to compete in regionals!"

The Golden Plains Bulldogs had previously taken on the Northern Valley Huskies two times this season and won both. GPHS came out ready to play and got up big with Sophomores Kassie Miller and Carli Nieman getting several kills. The Dogs went on to win the first set 25-12. Northern Valley competed closely with the Bulldogs in the first part of the second set until the Bulldogs took control of the game. The Dogs won the second set 25-15. They set the tone for the league tournament.

The Bulldogs were to face off against the Western Plains/Healy Bobcats for the second game of pool play. The Dogs had not played them yet this season. The girls competed well and played consistent the first set to win 25-14. With the second set being a little closer, the Bulldogs still took the win 25-16.

The Bulldogs took on the Palco Roosters for their final match of pool play for the day. The Dogs jumped out to a 5-0 lead with 5 aces in a row from Junior Ashley Stoll. The Roosters started to fight back a little, but the Bulldogs continued to respond. Zoey Hillis got several kills throughout the whole first set. The Bulldogs and Roosters were tied at 24 before the Bulldogs continued to fight and took the first set 27-25. Golden Plains and Palco played close at the start of the second set with many close volleys. The Bulldogs took control and won the second set 25-14.

The Lady Bulldogs came out of Pool A ranked #1 with a record of 3-0 on the day to face the #2 Logan Trojans from Pool B who had a record of 2-1 on the day. The Bulldogs and Trojans had previously played at the beginning of the season where they played 3 close sets. The Dogs were ready to compete and started the game strong. They had several long volleys with the score going back-and-forth. The Bulldogs then took off and won the first set 25-17.

The second set was another close back-and-forth set until the Trojans continued to attack the Bulldogs. The Dogs made several mistakes and lost the second set 18-25. In the third set, the Bulldogs got down 4-13 early in the game. Coach Ashley Arnberger called a timeout. With a serving run from Sophomore Rayna Taylor, the Dogs tried to fight back. They could not make up for their mistakes, losing the set and the match 17-25 to advance to the 3rd and 4th place game.

Golden Plains matched up with the Palco Roosters for the second time of the day for the 3rd and 4th place game. The Bulldogs knew it would be hard to beat a team two times in one day, so they came out with energy to capture the first set 25-18. The Bulldogs struggled to put the ball into the ground during the second set. They got down 3-11 in the second set. They were determined to try and get back into the game. With the help from the high school boys and community cheering, the Bulldogs battled back into the game. Carli Nieman went back to serve when the game was tied at 24. The Roosters

persevered and took the second set 24-26. GPHS found their energy and excitement during the third set to work to a 4-0 lead after Zoey Hillis had several kills. The Dogs never let up and won the third set 25-12 to take home 3rd place in the WKLL tournament. "I was very excited to step in and help the girls out!" said senior Karla Hernandez-Lopez, "We were very happy to come away with the 3rd place win!"

The Bulldogs will host the St. Francis Indians, Rawlins County Buffaloes, Triplains/Brewster Titans, Cheylin Cougars, and Decatur Community Red Devils for the 1A regional tournament on October 22. The Dogs head into regionals with a 28-6 record. The 1st and 2nd place teams of the regional tournament will advance to the substate tournament in Ransom on October 26.